North Eastern States. In addition a sum of Rs.350 crores is proposed to be spent on construction of roads included under Special Accelerated Road Development Programme–North East (SARDP-NE) and roads required by ITBP in North Eastern State.

2. BRO have planned the construction/improvement of 262.49 Km of roads of Operational/strategic importance in N.E. States. Out of this 7.93 Km of road is to be constructed in Assam at the cost of Rs. 2.28 crores. BRO also have a plan to construct/improve 150.39 Km of roads in NE States under SARDP-NE. Out of this 122.04 Kms are to be constructed/improved in Assam at the cost of Rs.145.64 crores.

Coastal police stations

*158. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Centre has sanctioned 12 coastal police stations for Tamil Nadu, equipped with speed-boats and modern equipments to control infiltration;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether other coastal States have also been sanctioned similar police stations to control this menace; and,

(d) if so, the details of such police stations that have been sanctioned for Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RADHIKA SELVI): (a) and (b) The State of Tamil Nadu has been sanctioned 12 Coastal Police Stations, 40 Check Posts, 12 Outposts and 24 vessels, 12 jeeps and 36 motorcycles under the Coastal Security scheme for coastal patrolling. A lump sum assistance of Rs. 10 lakh per Police Station has been approved under the scheme for equipments, computers etc.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) For the State of Orissa; 5 coastal Police Stations and 15 vessels, 10 jeeps and 15 motorcycles have been sanctioned.

Appointment of second State Reorganisation Commission

*159. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD:
SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering appointment of a second State Reorganisation Commission for creation of new States to attain political stability and better governance; and

(b) if so, the salient features and details of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT): (a) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

(b) Details can be given after the final decision is taken.

Hike in cement price

†160. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cement companies have recently hiked the price of cement;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that cement companies had promised Government that they will not increase the price of cement for one year;

(d) whether it is also a fact that cement companies have also reduced the production of cement with a view to continue hike in the market;

(e) if so, what is the cost of production of cement *vis-a-vis* its sale-price; and

(f) the steps Government are taking to safeguard the interests of the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b): As per Cement Manufacturers' Association, the average price of cement has increased from Rs. 158 per bag in December, 2005 to Rs. 229 per bag in July, 2007. The details of month-wise prices are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No, Sir. The production of cement by large plants in 2006-07 stood at 155.66 million tonne registering a growth of 9.77% over the production in the previous year. The capacity utilization in the cement industry was 94% during 2006-07 and 98% during first quarter of this year.

(e) The details of cost of production are not maintained as it varies from company to company.

(f) Import duty on cement has been reduced from 12.5% to Nil. Countervailing duty and special additional customs duty on cement have also been removed. Further, MMTC Ltd., a Public Sector Enterprise, has been given a special dispensation to import cement under the provisions of Cement (Quality Control)

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.